

Appl. No. 10/624,281
Amendment dated February 3, 2005
Response to Office Action of August 3, 2004

Remarks

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action of August 3, 2004. By way of this amendment, claims 19 and 20 have been canceled, and claims 18 and 21 have been amended. Claims 18 and 21-33 are currently pending. Applicant requests further review and reconsideration in light of the following remarks.

Claims 18, 19, 23, 24, 32, and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,872,252 (Konkle). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the present amendments.

By way of this amendment, claim 18 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 19 and 20. The Examiner has indicated that this combination contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is submitted that Konkle fails to disclose every element of amended claim 18 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 23, 24, 32, and 33 depend from claim 18 and are thus believed to be allowable for the reasons stated above.

The Examiner has rejected claims 18-33 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,540,301.

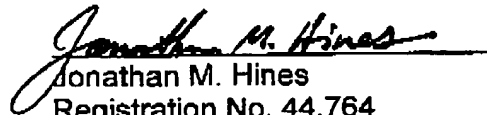
In order to place the application in condition for allowance, a Terminal Disclaimer is being submitted with this Response to overcome the double patenting rejection. Accordingly, it is submitted that the double patenting rejection of claims 18-33 should be withdrawn.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 20-22 and 25-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, in light of the above arguments that amended claim 18 is allowable, the rewriting of claims 20-22 and 25-31 is not believed to be necessary.

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In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 18 and 21-33 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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